

R E V I E W.

Tuesday, January 6. 1712.

Place being now the Prospect from abroad, I am for endeavouring to have us make the best of it at Home, for enquiring into, and taking the Advantage of it for improving our *TRADE*. This, I hope none of you will be against, whether you like the Peace, or no—And therefore, I think what I am to write now, cannot offend you, *and if it should, it is all one*. As to your Broils about the Peace, your scolding, railing, lying, and calling Names, about the Peace in General, and about the Conduct of it in Particular; I leave it to your Printing Incendiaries, who have, by loading either side with unsufferable Scandal, Forgery, and suggestion, so exasperated you one against another, that *England* scarce ever experienced the like; so that, if the best Peace, or the greatest Advantages in the World were at this time to be made, for the Nation; I believe, there are some among us, I appeal to themselves, who would not like or desire the Conditions, or accept of them, if the Party or Persons they Oppose, had the making of it.

This, I hope, and expect to see you in a little time, own your selves wrong in, and to see you ashamed of, and to see you treat those Pen and Ink-Furies that have inflam'd Father against Son, and Brother against Brother, in this manner, with that just Contempt that they deserve.

I therefore leave the unpleasant Subject, and as I have said above, whether we like the Peace or no, since it will be made; and, we see, there is no way to avoid it, but we must be at Peace whether we will or no; Let us see what advantage we can make of it in *TRADE*, and this is the Subject I am upon.

This Nation was once called a Trading Nation, and if I live to finish a History of our Commerce, *which I have for some Years, at those few leisure Hours I have for it, been upon*; I shall tell you how it came to be so, when it was not so, and how our Trade, by degrees, rose up to the Magnitude it has since arrived to—Nor may it be a useless Subject to you all, to enter a little into the Abuses of Trade, which having been indulged, or at least, neglected among us, have brought our Trade, particularly our Home Trade, to such a Decay, that it is fairly running back to its original *Nothing*; and we may, in time,

come to be the poorest Nation, with the greatest Trade in the World.

Mean time, to gratify those Gentlemen who will not allow any thing to be talk'd of that looks like supposing our Trade to be decay'd, I shall make a few just and easy Observations upon the present manifest Encrease of Trade, which we are said to be now under, and the great present Prosperity of our Wealth and Commerce: And, here I may state only the few trifling Articles that are insignificantly, perhaps decay'd, setting against them the most extraordinary Improvements of those weighty equivalent Parts of Trade, the advance whereof is our present Boast and Satisfaction.

I allow, that the present Constitution of our Trade, has this very happy, tho' very odd Circumstance in it, whether you respect Foreign Trade, or Home Trade; *viz* That the Substantial, Essential, Fundamental Parts of Trade, only having suffered a little Decay—The Excrescencies the superficial parts of Trade, or, indeed, the Trifles of our Trade are risen up to a prodigious Bulk in their room—Baubles and ridiculous Knick-Knacks, which formerly, deserv'd not a Name among our Manufactures, and which Men of Business car'd not to acknowledge themselves to deal in; now usurp the Grandeur and Magnificence of our general Articles, and become the Capitals of our Commerce.

Our Wrought-Silks, and our fine Stuffs, submit to that noble Usurpation of Painted Calicoe: Strip'd Mullains have most gallantly deposed your Manufacture of Bonelace, and are sometimes sold for as great a Price: Slight Druggets, Saggatees, Cantaloons, and a Thousand foreign Novelties of Wool, have dethroned your True-born *English* Broad-Cloth, and Kerseys caused them to cease from being the Wear of your Common People, and banish'd the very Name of a Clothier from whole Counties and Buroughs, which were once the principal Cloathing Towns of the Nation—All which, must needs be allow'd to be extraordinary Improvements of our Trade.

In our Foreign Commerce, we have, also, mighty Improvements; Nay, We boast of Trades perfectly new to the Nation, whose Encrease we esteem our exceeding

exceeding Wealth : For Example, That most admirable return of Wealth from *China*, which adorns the Serenades and Cabinets of the Ladies, and shine in the Angles of the Drawing-Rooms, these mightily encrease the dead Stock of the Nation, encourage Navigation to a strange Degree, since Ships have come Home wholly laden with Earthen Ware, the Trumpery of *China*, supplies, to infinite Advantage, the Furniture of our Houses, and serves the Ladies instead of Plate and Jewels.

Add to this, the prodigious Importation of Chocolate, a thing unknown to our Trading Ancestors, grown now a most considerable Article in Commerce, and as to Coffee and Tea, it is evident they are superiour in Trade to the Spices of the *Dutch*.

Such is the present State of our Trade, and so much are we in debt to the Devil ; that whenever we break our Confederacy with *Sathan*, we are certainly ruin'd and undone. I doubt not, but the knowledge of this, may be the True Reason why our Clergy of late, as well Church of *England* as Dissenters, have so entirely left off Preaching against Vanity and Vice, and all manner of Luxury, Pride, and Excess, obtains the utmost Encouragement from the Authority and Example of the Magistrate, Societies for reforming us, on the contrary, grow obsolete and contemptible ; they are kept up indeed, a little, for Form sake, and to Banter Heaven with the pretence of Reformation : But, alas ! Should they pretend to it, they must by consequence set themselves up to be the Great Enemies of our Trade,

and Rob the Poor of their Bread to Reform the of the Rich.

How then can the Gentlemen of the Pulpit fit their Hearts to Preach against Riot and Luxury, against the Pride and Vanity of the Age, against Drunkenness and Excesses in a trading Nation, whose Commerce being lately removed from Essential Necessaries of Life, depends now upon Vice and Luxurious way of Living, taken up by the People, and which it is plain, whenever we leave off, we shall be beggar'd and undone. Vice and Luxury, therefore, is now become absolutely necessary to us, and to suppress it, would be to raise the Mob upon the Government, for they could stand without it ; to put a stop to it, would ruin us all ; not the employment of the Poor would be taken from them, but even the Rich would be ruin'd, all your Funds would sink without *Spunge* ; your Interest for Lotterys and Loans, whose Foundations are laid on the Taxes raised by our Drunkenness, our Levity, Extravagancies and Excesses.

Nor is this considerable Change in our Commerce, hid, it is impossible to be concealed, for Thousands of Families get their Bread by the *Aldenda*, those accidental Articles of Trade which attend all which, upon a reforming the Wicked Humours of our People, would sink, and the numerous Families which are employed by them must be left to their Bread, or be starv'd for want of Business which in its Course.

MISCELLANEA.

While the other part of this Paper treats of the most useful part of your daily Application, I mean Trade: Pray, Gentlemen, give the Author leave to set a part this little Fragment of his *Discourse* for a Day or Two, to expose a little some unhappy Encroachments made in our Commerce, which, I think, as they do not originally belong to Trade, so I cannot allow them to carry on the wicked Employ without some Notice, and some just Reproof, lest in time they plead Prescription, should be received in the City among your Incorporated Art and Mystery Men, set up Companies, build Halls, march in *Furr* and *Gravity* at my Lord Mayor's *Shew*, and enjoy all the Privileges of the other *Worshipful Societies* of the City.

Not to enter here into the particular Crimes of those New Fraternities ; I shall only give you a brief Catalogue of them.

1. Such as knowing the many secret Advantages of being one thing in the outside and another within, and having experienced the Gain of Hypocrisy, make *A TRADE of Religion* : — I do not turn this either Way, for as I told you at first, I resolve to have no respect to Parties in this *Discourse* ; I have nothing to say to Occasional Conformity on one side, that *Mischief* is now at an End by Law, or to Jacobites who take the Abjuration on the other hand, whose Damnation *slumbereth not*. But let the many, many Religious Men who every day make not Godliness their Gain,

but a Gain of their Godliness, take this Hint, get out of the Crowd before I set such a Mark upon them as every Honest Man shall know them by.

2. Making Virtue and Honour *A TRADE*, is grown up to such a height, and the Factors and Dealers Trade in so many kinds of Merchandize, that it will be enough to Enumerate them in the *Grand* and leave the Particulars to farther Observation — *Behold the Black List*.

1. Buying and selling Innocence for Villany ; Debauchery ; a Trade now carried on to such a height, that Hories are not with more allow'd Importation bought all over the Country, and brought to *Smithfield* Market, than Young Women are fetch'd from all parts of the Nation to be sold in this Leud Town to the vilest Employment of common Prostitution.

2. Buying and selling Fortunes, a Trade never praised so much as now, while the most Busy Beggars in this Employ, make it their Business to betray Ladies of Estates into the hands of Beggars and Bankrupts, under the Title of Wealthy Citizens, the Fruits of which have been so terribly visible, that I am able to give you a List of about 39 Matches made by these *Wife-jobbers*, within Two Years, in the City, every one of which have ruin'd the Young Ladies, and sent them home Beggars to their Friends or left them friendless in Distress already.

You shall hear more of this hereafter.